

## Message Text

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AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL RO

SUBJECT: AARON WILDAVSKY VISIT TO BUCHAREST

REF: BUCHAREST 0986 (LOU)(NOTAL)

SUMMARY: EXCELLENT VISIT BY STAG AARON WILDAVSKY PROVIDED EFFECTIVE FOLLOW-UP DIAMOND VISIT IN EXPLAINING AMERICAN POLITICAL PROCESS. LECTURES AT FIVE INSTITUTIONS, MEETINGS WITH TOP PLANNER, ECONOMIST AND JOURNALISTS PRODUCED MOST FRUITFUL DISCUSSIONS. EMBASSY REINFORCED CONTACTS WITH ACADEMICIANS, JOURNALIST AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHILE MAKING SEVERAL NEW CONTACTS. POST FEELS DIAMOND-WILDAVSKY "EXPERIMENTAL" PROGRAM SUCCESSFUL AND PLANS TO FOLLOW-UP WITH CAREFULLY SLECTED SPEAKERS AN DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIAL. END SUMMARY.

1. DR. AARON WILDAVSKY'S VISIT TO BUCHAREST AND CLUJ, MARCH 21-26 PROVIDED EXCELLENT FOLLOW-UP OPPORTUNITIES TO THE EARLIER MARCH VISIT OF PROFESSOR MATIN DIAMOND IN EXPLAINING THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENTAL PROCESS. AN ARTICULATE AND HUMOROUS SPEAKER, WILDAVSKY TREATED THE FOLLOWING SIGNIFICANT TOPICS IN HIS FORMAL PRESENTATIONS TO A VARIETY OF ROMANIAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AUDIENCES: RELATIONS BETWEEN THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE

BRANCHES; THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENTAL BUDGETS IN INFLUENCING THE AMERICAN ECONOMY AND POLITICAL PROCESS; NEW TRENDS IN AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND THEIR RELATION TO GOVERNMENT POLICY; AND SIGNIFICANT ISSUES IN CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN POLITICAL LIFE.

2. IN ADDITION TO VISITING SOME OF THE SAME INSTITUTIONS WHICH PREVIOUSLY HOSTED DR. DIAMOND, NOTABLY THE STEFAN CHEORGIU ACADEMY, (THE RCP HIGH PARTY SCHOOL WHICH TRAINS PARTY CADRES) AND THE INSTITUTE OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, PROFESSOR WILDAVSKY'S VISIT ENABLED THE EMBASSY TO ESTABLISH NEW PROGRAMMING CONTACTS WITH THE FACULTY OF LAW IN CLUJ, THE POLITICO-ECONOMIC FACULTY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF BUCHAREST AND WITH EDITORS OF THE TOP PARTY THEORETICAL AND POLITICAL JOURNAL, "ERA SOCIALISTA". THE LECTURER ALSO DELIVERED A WELL- RECEIVED TALK IN THE AMERICAN LIBRARY WHICH GENERATED A LENGTHY AND PRODUCTIVE DISCUSSION PERIOD, LASTING OVER TWO AND ONE HALF HOURS AND HAD MEETINGS WITH PLANNING COMMITTEE OFFICIAL AND MARKETING INSTITUTE DIRECTOR.

3. THE VISIT TO CLUJ REPRESENTED THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY IN EMBASSY MEMORY FOR AN AMERICAN TO SPEAK THERE ON SUCH EXPLICITLY POLITICAL TOPICS. THE MEETING ATTRACTED 25 HISTORIANS, LAWYERS AND SOCIOLOGISTS AND PROFESSOR WILDAVSKY WAS COURTEOUSLY RECEIVED BY THE UNIVERSITY RECTOR (EX-IVP STEFAN PASCU WHO IS A RCP CC MEMBER). THE TALK ON RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS SEEMED TO APPEAL TO MOST PARTICIPANTS BUT IT WAS OBVIOUS FROM THE TENOR OF DISCUSSION AND ITS BREVITY THAT THE PARTICIPANTS WERE EITHER NOT WELL-INFORMED ON THE AMERICAN POLITICAL SYSTEM AND/OR THEY WERE RELUCTANT TO EXPRESS PERSONAL VIEWS. DESPITE THE FACT THAT MEETINGS WITH DIFFERENT ACADEMIC GROUPS HAD BEEN PROPOSED THE RESULT WAS THAT ONLY A SINGLE MEETING INVOLVING ALL DISCIPLINES DEVELOPED. THIS IS AN INDICATION THAT THE LECTURE WAS A NEW AND UNCERTAIN STEP FOR THE UNIVERSITY AND THEY OBVIOUSLY WANTED TO CONTROL THE EXTENT AND FORM OF CONTACT BETWEEN THE LECTURER AND PARTICIPANTS.

4. THE BUCHAREST AUDIENCES INCLUDED FOR THE MOST PART LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BETTER-INFORMED INDIVIDUALS WHO ASKED RELEVANT QUESTIONS AND, WITH ONE EXCEPTION, STAYED AWAY FROM POLEMICAL COMMENTS. SINCE PROFESSOR DIAMOND HAD EXPERIENCED SOME MILDLY POLEMICAL RESPONSES, WE CONCLUDE THAT THE ABSENCE OF THIS RESPONSE IN THE WILDAVSKY APPEARANCES CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO BOTH HIS CONTENT (ESSENTIALLY MORE ISSUE-ORIENTED AND DESCRIPTIVE) AND HIS STYLE. HE WAS VERY CRITICAL OF SOME FAILURES IN AMERICAN DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICIES AND SOMEWHAT

PESSIMISTIC ON THE ABILITY OF GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS TO FULFILL CITIZEN EXPECTATIONS. AT THE SAME TIME HIS CANDOR AND OBJECTIVITY IN HIS ANALYSIS OF AMERICAN STRENGTHS (INCLUDING THE DECENTRALIZATION OF POWER AND WILLINGNESS TO COMPROMISE) AND HIS FAITH IN THE DURABILITY OF THE SYSTEM IMPRESSED LISTENERS.

5. IN HIS CONTACTS BOTH AT FORMAL PRESENTATIONS AND IN SMALL REPRESENTATIONAL EVENTS WITH ROMANIANS HOSTED BY THE PAO, CAO, POLITICAL COUNSELOR AND LIBRARY DIRECTOR, WILDAVSKY WAS HONEST AND ARTICULATE AND LEFT A FAVORABLE IMPRESSION. HE HAS A QUICK AND ACTIVE MIND, BROAD INTEREST AND EXPERTISE, AND WHILE ON OCCASION HE DISPLAYED SOME DISINTEREST (OR APPEARED TO DO SO) IN THE COMMENTS OF OTHERS, HE WAS, FOR THE MOST PART, EASY TO HANDLE AND WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH EMBASSY REQUESTS. WHILE POLITICAL SCIENCE AS A NEW AND DEVELOPING DISCIPLINE HAS LITTLE IMPACT AND FEW PRACTITIONERS LOCALLY, WILDAVSKY WAS ABLE TO RELATE HIS TALKS TO THE INTERESTS AND THOSE OF HIS AUDIENCES WHICH INCLUDED HISTORIANS, LAWYERS, SOCIOLOGISTS AND A FEW JOURNALISTS. HIS ONLY CONTACT WITH STUDENTS CAME IN THE AMERICAN LIBRARY, AND EVEN HERE THE QUESTIONS WERE DOMINATED BY OLDER PROFESSIONALS.

6. THE POST INDICATED IN ITS INITIAL REQUEST FOR THE VISITS OF PROFESSORS DIAMOND AND WILDAVSKY THE EXPERIMENTAL NATURE OF THEIR PROGRAMS. OUR THOUGHTS ABOUT THE POSSIBLE RELUCTANCE OF ROMANIAN INSTITUTIONS TO ALLOW WHAT WOULD BE CONSIDERED BY THEM TO BE "IDEOLOGICAL" DISCUSSIONS ON THEIR PREMISES HAVE BEEN TEMPERED SOMEWHAT BY THE GOOD RESPONSES OF MANY INSTITUTIONS. WE HAVE DISCOVERED THAT INTEREST EXISTS ALONG WITH CAUTION AND CONTROL AND THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROGRAM ON A CAREFULLY SELECTED BASIS  
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ARTICULATE AND KNOWLEDGEABLE AMERICAN POLITICAL EXPERTS. THE TIMING OF THESE VISITS IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT AND FUTURE PLANS WILL HINGE LARGELY ON THE FEEDBACK WE RECEIVE. THE VISIT TO CLUJ WAS A MODEST SUCCESS, THE PROVERBIAL FOOT-IN-THE-DOOR, AND WE HOPE TO UTILIZE FUTURE LECTURERS IN PROVINCIAL CITIES WHILE RECOGNIZING THE FACT THAT OUR LIMITATIONS IN FOLLOW-UP AND THE CONCENTRATION OF TALENT IN BUCHAREST MAKE THE CAPITAL THE MOST PRODUCTIVE PROGRAMMING POINT.

7. THE POST FEELS THAT AS A RESULT OF THE DIAMOND AND WILDAVSKY VISITS A NUMBER OF LOCAL ACADEMICS, JOURNALISTS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ARE BETTER INFORMED ABOUT THE CHARACTER AND PERFORMANCE OF THE AMERICAN POLITICAL SYSTEM. THE VISITS HAVE ALLOWED EMBASSY OFFICERS

TO BROADEN AND EITHER REINFORCE OR INITIATE NEW MEANINGFUL  
CONTACTS. THESE VISITS WILL BE FOLLOW UP BY THE DISTRIBUTION  
OF MATERIALS REQUESTED BY PARTICIPANTS, INVITATIONS TO  
AMERICAN LIBRARY PROGRAMS, BY FUTURE SPEAKERS. THE VISIT  
IN EARLY MAY OF SAUL PADOVER WILL ALLOW US TO INVOLVE  
SIMILAR INSTITUTIONS.

8. THE POST RECOMMENDS PROFESSORS DIAMOND AND WILDAVSKY  
TO OTHER POSTS INTERESTED IN EXPLAINING THE AMERICAN POLITICAL  
SYSTEM.  
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